

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

JULY 1, 2008

Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one of four families and victimizing both those with the illness and those who care for them; two-thirds of people with mental illness do not seek treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate or no diagnosis; the National Institute of Mental Health reports that people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time and 45% have two or more disorders, where one often leads to the other such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer;

The 1999 Surgeon General's Report cites that more than 54 million Americans have a mental disorder, but fewer than 8 million seek treatment; further, Caucasians are more likely to receive treatment than African Americans, and African Americans are misdiagnosed at a higher rate; communities of color need resources where faith, culture, customs, and values are considered in treatment and diagnosis;

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

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| MOLINA | _____ |
| YAROSLAVSKY | _____ |
| KNABE | _____ |
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| BURKE | _____ |

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Bebe Moore Campbell's interest in mental health was sparked by a family member's struggle with mental illness; her dedication and commitment to support mental wellness through effective treatment options, open access to mental health services, improved community outreach and support for those with brain disorders and her tireless advocacy and fight to bring awareness and attention to mental illness among minorities remain unmatched; furthermore, she authored the New York Times best selling novel, "72 Hour Hold", and her children's book "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry" which both bring awareness to the plight of those with brain disorders;

Today we recognize the late Bebe Moore Campbell as mother, grand-mother, wife, friend, advocate, celebrated writer and journalist, noted author, radio commentator, community activist, co-founder of The National Alliance on Mental Illness Urban Los Angeles;

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

That we join the United States Congress to appropriately recognize July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

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